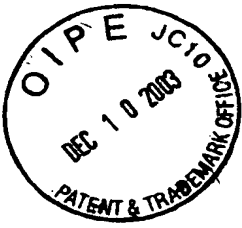


41
Serial No.: 10/069,302



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

1725
PATENT
30151/38183
RECEIVED
DEC 15 2003
TC 1700

Applicant: LOHMULLER ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/069,302

Filed: MAY 10, 2002


Title: ANNEALING APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: TRAN, LEN

) I hereby certify that this paper is being
) deposited with the United States Postal
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) Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box
) 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,
) on December 5, 2003.

) 
) Bryan J. Lempia
) Reg. No. 39,746
) Attorney for Applicant

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the office action mailed on September 5, 2003,
please amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the
remarks presented herewith.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.